IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising ~~In a system that includes a call admission control mechanism and where telephone calls are packetized using loss-less codecs for transmission on a communication link having a particular bandwidth, the method which includes the steps of~~:

packetizing calls for transmission over a communication link having a particular bandwidth threshold;

monitoring ~~the~~ an amount of bandwidth being used to transmit the packetized calls on said communication link[[,]]; ~~and~~

feeding back to ~~said~~ a call admission control mechanism a signal to limit ~~the~~ new calls admitted when the bandwidth being used approaches said particular bandwidth threshold[[.]];

identifying packetized calls that are lower priority than remaining packetized calls when the bandwidth being used approaches said particular bandwidth threshold;

when one or more lower priority calls are identified, suppressing the lower priority calls by reducing an amount of transmitted packets corresponding to the lower priority calls to provide bandwidth for the new calls; and

when there are no identified lower priority calls, selecting one or more of the packetized calls for suppression regardless of whether the packetized calls are all equal priority so that non-selected calls are completely unsuppressed such that only the selected calls are affected by over-subscription.

2. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 1 wherein the monitoring is performed after the packetized calls are established and while the packetized calls are in progress, such that actual, non-predicted bandwidth usage is observed for the packetized calls ~~including a policing method for said communication link which identifies calls of lower priority and which suppresses the transmission of packets from calls having a lower priority when the bandwidth usage of said communication link reaches a predetermined level~~.

3. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising ~~of controlling the number of calls admitted to a system for transmission on a communication link having a particular bandwidth comprising the steps of~~:

monitoring [[the]] bandwidth being used to transmit calls on a [[said]] communication link having a particular bandwidth threshold, said monitoring performed after the calls are established and while the calls are in progress such that actual, non-predicted bandwidth usage is observed for the calls;[[,]] and

limiting the number of calls admitted for transmission on said link when the bandwidth being used approaches said particular bandwidth threshold;[[.]]

wherein the monitoring is performed independently of any bandwidth estimates generated before the calls are transmitted on the communication link.

4. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising ~~for transmitting calls over a packet communication link including~~[[,]]:

a call admission control mechanism which controls the admission of calls for transmission over a packet communication link ~~said communication link~~[[,]];

loss-less codecs which compress and packetize calls for transmission over said communication link[[,]];

a monitoring system for monitoring [[the]] an observed amount of bandwidth being used on said communication link such that loss-less codes that are currently fully utilizing corresponding subchannels are identified[[,]];

~~and~~ a feedback path from said monitoring system to said admission control mechanism whereby [[the]] calls admitted for transmission over said link are limited when the amount of bandwidth being used on said link approaches a predetermined amount[[.]]; and

the call admission control mechanism assigning a new call to one of the non-identified loss-less codecs responsive to said monitoring when the amount of bandwidth being used on said link does not approach the predetermined amount.

5. (Original) The system recited in claim 4 wherein at least some of the calls being transmitted over said communication link are identified as lower priority calls, and

where a policing mechanism restricts the number of packets transmitted for said lower priority calls when the bandwidth usage on said link reaches a predetermined amount.

6. (Original) The method recited in claim 1 wherein said communication link connects a Base Transceiver Station to a Base Station Controller.

7. (Original) The system recited in claim 4 wherein said communication link connects a Base Transceiver Station to a Base Station Controller.

8. (Original) The method recited in claim 6 wherein said Base Transceiver Station and said Base Station Controller operate using the Global System for Mobile Communication" (GSM) system protocol.

9. (Original) The system recited in claim 7 wherein said Base Transceiver Station and said Base Station Controller operate using the Global System for Mobile Communication" (GSM) system protocol.

10. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 8 wherein the packetized calls are packetized using loss-less codecs and each of said loss-less codecs is associated with one DS0 channel and handles four telephone calls.

11. (Original) The system recited in claim 9 wherein each of said loss-less codecs is associated with one DS0 channel and handles four telephone calls.

12. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising ~~In a communications system that includes a call admission control mechanism, the combination of~~:

means for packetizing telephone calls using loss-less codecs for transmission on a communication link having a particular bandwidth threshold[[,]];

means for monitoring ~~the~~ a non-averaged, non-predicted, actual amount of bandwidth being used to transmit calls on said communication link such that transmitted calls temporarily including spurts of voice activity are identified as using more bandwidth than calls temporarily including periods of silence[[,]]; and

means for feeding back to a ~~said~~ call admission control mechanism a signal to limit the calls admitted when the bandwidth being used approaches said particular bandwidth threshold.

13. (Currently Amended) A telephone call communication system including[[,]]:

a call admission control system for admitting calls for transmission by said communication system[[,]];

a packet transmission link having a particular bandwidth threshold;[[,]]

loss-less codecs for packetizing telephone calls for transmission on said packet transmission link[[,]];

a ~~monitoring~~ mechanism for observing ~~monitoring~~ a [[the]] currently used amount of bandwidth being used to transmit each of the calls on said packet transmission link, the currently used amount of bandwidth being non-averaged and different for at least two of the calls; and

a feedback mechanism for feeding back to said call admission control system a signal to limit ~~the calls~~ admitted calls when the bandwidth being used approaches said particular bandwidth threshold.

14. (Original) The system recited in claim 12 wherein said communication link connects a Base Transceiver Station to a Base Station Controller.

15. (Original) The system recited in claim 13 wherein said communication link connects a Base Transceiver Station to a Base Station Controller.

16. (Original) The system recited in claim 14 wherein said Base Transceiver Station and said Base Station Controller operate using the Global System for Mobile Communication" (GSM) system protocol.

17. (Original) The system recited in claim 15 wherein said Base Transceiver Station and said Base Station Controller operate using the Global System for Mobile Communication" (GSM) system protocol.

18. (Original) The system recited in claim 12 wherein each of said loss-less codecs is associated with one DS0 channel and handles four telephone calls.

19. (Original) The system recited in claim 13 wherein each of said loss-less codecs is associated with one DS0 channel and handles four telephone calls.

20. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising ~~of transmitting calls on a communication link that connects a Base Transceiver Station and a Base Station Controller in a system operating according to the Global System for Mobile Communication" (GSM) system protocol, said system including a call admission control mechanism for admitting calls for transmission on said communication link, said communication link having a particular bandwidth, said method including the steps of~~:

packetizing ~~packetized~~ telephone calls ~~call~~ using loss-less codecs for transmission on a ~~said~~ communication link that connects a base transceiver station and a base station controller ~~using loss-less codecs~~:

monitoring the amount of bandwidth being used to transmit calls on said communication link that includes a particular bandwidth limit;[[,]] ~~and~~

feeding back to a ~~said~~ call admission control mechanism that is connected to a transmission side of the communication link a signal to limit new calls ~~the calls admitted~~ when the bandwidth being used approaches said particular bandwidth limit[[.]];

admitting the news calls without reducing an amount of packets used for the transmitted calls when the signal indicates that the particular bandwidth limit is not approached; and

when the signal indicates that the particular bandwidth limit is being approached, admitting the new calls and reducing an amount of packets transmitted for only a selected number of the transmitted calls without reducing an amount of packets used for the remaining transmitted calls regardless of whether the selected calls have a same identified priority as the remaining transmitted calls.

21. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising ~~for transmitting calls on a communication link that connects a Base Transceiver Station and a Base Station Controller operating according to the Global System for Mobile Communication" (GSM) system protocol, said communication link having a particular bandwidth, the combination of~~:

means for admitting calls for transmission on a ~~said~~ communication link that connects a base transceiver station and a base station controller operating according to the Global System for Mobile Communication" (GSM) system protocol and includes a particular bandwidth limit;[[,]]

~~loss-less codecs~~ means for packetized telephone calls admitted for transmission on said communication link[[,]];

means for monitoring ~~the~~ an observed amount of bandwidth being used to transmit calls on said communication link[[,]]; and

means for feeding back to said call admission control mechanism a signal to limit the calls admitted when the bandwidth being used approaches said particular bandwidth limit.

22. (New) The system of claim 4 wherein said monitoring system monitors the amount of bandwidth being used after transmission of the calls and independently of any predicted bandwidth estimates that are produced before the calls are transmitted, such that non-predicted, actual bandwidth usage is observed for the transmitted calls.

23. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the monitoring is performed after the calls are established and while the calls are in progress and independently of any predicted bandwidth estimates that are produced before the calls are transmitted, such that actual bandwidth usage is observed for the calls.

24. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

one or more processors; and

a memory coupled to the one or more processors comprising instructions executable by the processors, the processors operable when executing the instructions to:

admit new calls to a communication link without suppressing existing calls when a feedback signals that existing calls are not currently consuming an amount of bandwidth that approaches a bandwidth threshold for the communication link; and

admit the new calls to the communication link and suppress selected ones of the existing calls when the feedback signals that the existing calls are currently consuming an amount of bandwidth that does approach the bandwidth threshold

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein admission of the new calls and suppression of the selected ones of the existing calls is responsive to feedback representing actual bandwidth usage that is independent of any bandwidth estimates generated before the existing calls are included on the communication link.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the processors are further operable to select the suppressed calls according to priority.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the selected calls are not identified as being any lower priority than the non-selected calls.